



# The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

*Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island*

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.8144 *Voice* • 252.441.0338 *Fax*

info@outerbankschamber.com

## Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Resolution Opposing Game Fish Bill

**WHEREAS**, all fisheries of the United States are a public trust resource belonging to everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, a vast portion of the public relies on the commercial fishing community to harvest their share of this resource for them; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring game fish status for Red Drum, Striped Bass and Speckled Sea Trout would deprive most of the public access to a resource which they own; and

**WHEREAS**, allowing only a specific user group to gain the benefits of eating this important, healthy protein is unfair, unjust and unwarranted; and

**WHEREAS**, the commercial fishing community is an important component of the coastal and the state's economic base which provides many direct and indirect jobs, taxes and other benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no scientific basis for placing additional restrictions on the commercial harvest of these species; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the primary lures to entice visitors to the coast is the availability of fresh locally-caught seafood at the docks, fish markets and restaurants; and

**WHEREAS**, the taxes from tourism are a significant portion of the budgets of local towns, counties and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, much of North Carolina's commercial fishing community is still trying to recover from Hurricane Irene, the frequent closing of Oregon Inlet and unfair competition of imported seafood; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is the state's first industry and it's more than 400-year-old existence is part of the state's and nation's cultural heritage;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its more than 1,000 members, requests that the North Carolina General Assembly oppose "Game Fish Status" for Red Drum, Striped Bass, Speckled Sea Trout and other fish species and ensure that access of this public trust resource continues to be available to all.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013.

Ali Breaux, Chair  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors

Karen S. Brown  
President & CEO  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

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